

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated March 31, 2003, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 19 and 20 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants hereby confirm the election of claims 1-17 in Group I. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Mitra* (5,478,248). Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that the guide channels of the back shell are disposed on the outside surface and that the housing guide arms extend from an outside surface of the housing. By placing the guide channels and the guide arms on the outside surface, the assembly may be easily effectuated using the tools set forth in the application.

The *Mitra* reference does not teach or suggest the use of guide channels on the outside surface of a back shell and a housing having guide arms on the outside surface thereof. Although a cavity 21 is illustrated in Fig. 1 of *Mitra*, the channel is not formed on the outside surface thereof. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration of claim 1.

With respect to claim 17, two back shells are recited. The back shells have a third carrier board and a fourth carrier board fixedly coupled thereto. A housing having guide arms that extend therefrom is sized to be received within the guide channels of the first and second back shells. A first carrier board is fixedly coupled to the circuit board and a second carrier board is also fixedly coupled to the circuit board. Applicants respectfully submit that only two circuit boards 5 and 14 are shown in Fig. 1.

Two back shells and two carrier boards are also not illustrated. Applicants should note that the first carrier board and the second carrier board are separate and mounted to the circuit board. Thus, several features of claim 17 are not found in the *Mitra* reference. Nor, are these features suggested in the *Mitra* reference. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration of claim 17. For the same reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 12-16.

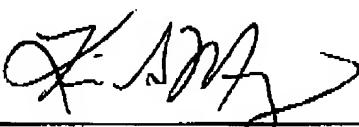
Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mitra* (5,478,248). Applicants respectfully traverse. As mentioned above, claim 1, from which claim 4 ultimately depends, has been amended to include several limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that the cup shape retraction features are not taught or suggested in the *Mitra* reference. In fact, because two circuit boards are illustrated, applicants respectfully submit that no retraction features are provided since the circuit boards act to retract each of the connector portions.

Claims 7-11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mitra* in view of *Mouissie* (4,169,642). Applicants respectfully traverse. As mentioned above, the *Mitra* reference fails to teach or suggest several elements in claim 1 from which claims 7-11 ultimately depend. The *Mitra* reference also fails to teach several elements of claim 17 from which claim 18 depends. Although the *Mouissie* reference teaches a flex circuit, the *Mouissie* reference fails to teach or suggest the missing elements of the *Mitra* reference described above. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration of claims 7-11 and 18.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all rejections are now overcome. The applicants have added no new material to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to Deposit Account 502401.

Respectfully submitted,
ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C.

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